

MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 5, 2021
HELD ONLINE VIA ZOOM APPLICATION

Commission Members Present: Timothy Archambault, Chair, James Kelley, Jr., Richard Shiers, and Barry Norris

Commission Members Absent: Edward Kelleher

Staff Members Present: AAG, Ron Guay, AAG, Henry Jennings, Miles Greenleaf, Carol Gauthier, Jaime Wood, and Dr. Zachary Matzkin

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions: Timothy Archambault, Chair

AAG, Guay stated prior to this hearing there was a pre-hearing conference held. Debbie Patterson representing the Maine Harness Horsemen's Association and Gunner LaCour representing First Tracks were present.

AAG, Guay stated he received no objections to this hearing by the deadline of 4:00 p.m. on November 4, 2021. He did a roll call of each fair. There were no participants from the fairs, Maine Standardbred Breeders and Owner's Association, and Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Michael Hopkins representing Bangor Raceway was present and First Tracks represented by Gunner LaCour and Michael Cianchette were present too. AAG, Guay asked those present if they waived the requirement of Chapter 21, Section 10.C for the notice of hearing which were Michael Hopkins, Gunner LaCour, Henry Jennings, and Debbie Patterson. They all waived the requirement. He asked for a motion to reopen the race date hearings. Commissioner Kelley made a motion to reopen the race date hearing. Commissioner Norris seconded. AAG, Guay called the roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Timothy Archambault	Yea
James Kelley, Jr.	Yea
Richard Shiers	Yea
Barry Norris	Yea

Motion passed 4-0.

AAG, Guay qualified the Commissioners. There were no objections to the Commissioners participating in the hearing. He read the stipulations.

1. First Tracks seeks to release their race dates of November 7th and 14th.
2. First Tracks seeks to race on November 9th and 16th.
3. The change of date will not burden the Department to run the race.
4. The change of date is supported by the MHHA.
5. The change of date does not affect the substantial public interest.
6. The change of date will not burden any other harness racing venue.
7. The effective parties have waived objections to Chapter 21, Section 10.C.

AAG, Guay asked for any objections to any of these stipulations. There were none. He admitted the stipulations. He told the Commissioners they could accept the stipulations as facts. Gunner LaCour

stated there was a difference between the calendar that they submitted and the calendar that was advertised to the horsemen and the public. The intent was to bring the approved dates inline with what they advertised, and what the horsemen have been following. Mr. Jennings stated he has no objection. Michael Cushing stated they have no objection to what they are asking. AAG, Guay stated they could stipulate for the record that the request was made well in advance of the date of entries of horses for Sunday field. He suggested a motion. The suggested motion is that the Commission grant First Tracks its request to change its race dates from November 7th and 14th to November 9th and 16th. Commissioner Shiers moved the motion. Commissioner Kelley seconded. The Commissioners deliberated. AAG, Guay called the roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Timothy Archambault	Yea
James Kelley, Jr.	Yea
Richard Shiers	Yea
Barry Norris	Yea

Motion passed 4-0. Hearing closed.

AAG, Guay stated they are now opening a pre-hearing conference on the 2022 Race Date Hearing by delegation order of the Commission. He has been named presiding officer for the proceeding. For all the parties the order will reflect that all proposed exhibits will be submitted by November 12th. He will set the date for objection to November 15th. He is setting November 16th as the pre-hearing conference. He is going to order that the license applications will be confidential. Mr. Jennings will have a written report from Wipfli. Mr. Jennings will be a witness. AAG, Guay stated they will consider the OTB's first on November 19, 2021.

Adjourn:
10:49 a.m.